

# National Park Service

## Congaree National Park

For Immediate Release

Contact: David Shelley (803) 776-4396 x15

### **Halloween Weekend Spider Blitz: Searching for Spiders at Congaree National Park**

Creep into the forest and search for spiders to begin your Halloween weekend! Join us on **Saturday October 28, 2006** at Congaree National Park for our first ever Spider Blitz! This is a special opportunity to help researchers find out what spiders live at Congaree National Park by assisting with a daytime and nighttime survey of spiders that inhabit the park. This program is free and open to all ages, however children must be accompanied by an adult.

Researchers and staff from Clemson University and the National Park Service are seeking volunteer “citizen scientists” to assist with the capture and identification of these *eight-legged* creatures. Participants will be trained in the use of scientific collection equipment and field methods, and will be taught basic spider identification skills. Activities will take place throughout the forest and within the Old Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center at Congaree National Park. Please wear shoes you won’t mind getting wet and muddy. Long pants and long-sleeve shirts are highly recommended, along with insect repellent and drinking water. Reservations are required if you plan to attend by **October 20, 2006**.

For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact David Shelley at 803-776-4396 x 15, or by email at [cosw\\_resource\\_management@nps.gov](mailto:cosw_resource_management@nps.gov).

**When: Saturday, October 28, 2006**

Session 1: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Session 2: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Session 3: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Where:** Participants will meet at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center before departing into the forest to search for spiders.

Established in 1976, the Congaree National Park preserves the largest intact tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. This National Park Service site is a designated International Biosphere Reserve and Wilderness Area and serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for visitors, school children and scientists from all over the world.

For more information about the park write to Superintendent, Congaree National Park, 100 National Park Road, Hopkins, S.C. 29061 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/cosw>.

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October 13, 2006